

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15744 261041Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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S E C R E T CAIRO 15744

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR OVIP EG IS US (AARON, DAVID)
SUBJECT: OVERLAND MOVEMENT FROM EGYPT TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 161611

1. EGYPTIAN POLICY FORBIDDING TRANSIT OF SINAI VIA SFM IS FIRM AND ONLY THREE PERSONS IN GOE CAN GRANT WAIVER--GAMASY, VP MUBARAK AND SADAT. ACCORDINGLY, I RAISED MATTER WITH VP MUBARAK DURING CAIRO-ALEXANDRIA FLIGHT, JUNE 24. MUBARAK SAID THAT HE THOUGHT I SHOULD TAKE IT UP WITH SADAT.

2. I DID SO IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH SADAT, EXPLAINING AARON'S POSITION AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSED TRANSIT. I ALSO EXPLAINED NSC RESPONSIBILITY FOR SFM. I SAID THAT WE KNOW GOE POLICY ON THE MATTER AND RESPECT IT, BUT ASKED THAT A ONE-TIME, NON-PRECEDENTIAL EXCEPTION BE MADE IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE.

3. SADAT REITERATED GOE UNWILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO HAVE SFM SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL SO LONG AS ISRAEL FAILS TO MOVE ON PEACE PROCESS. HE

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RECALLED THAT HE HAD OFFERED WEIZMAN A DIRECT AIR CORRIDOR ACROSS SINAI AS PART OF A PEACE PACKAGE, BUT CHARGED ISRAELIS DO NOT SEEM READY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PEACE REALITIES. "AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL TO PRESIDENT CARTER", HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT AARON MIGHT TRAVEL FROM EGYPT TO ISRAEL VIA SFM ON A ONE-TIME, NON-PRECEDENTIAL BASIS. HE ASKED THAT AARON NOT

PUBLICIZE THIS EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT, SINCE SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM MANY OTHER PROMINENT AMERICANS (INCLUDING SENATOR STONE) HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN. FONMIN KAMEL, WHO WAS PRESENT, VOICED HOPE THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT PUBLICIZE IT, BUT SADAT NOTED THAT IF THEY DO, GOE COULD EXPLAIN THE PERMISSION GIVEN TO AARON IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE PRESIDENT CARTER.

4. ON FLIGHT BACK FROM ALEXANDRIA, I ASKED VP MUBARAK TO MAKE SURE THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS ARE SENT TO MG KATIB, WHO IS OUR NORMAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR SFM MATTERS AND WHO IS A BUREAUCRAT IN UNIFORM PAR EXCELLENCE. MUBARAK ASSURED ME THAT KATIB WILL BE APPROPRIATELY INSTRUCTED.

5. IN LIGHT SADAT'S PERMISSION, AARON CAN PLAN FOR DIRECT EGYPT/ISRAEL OVERLAND TRIP VIA SFM. SINCE REFTEL SUGGESTS AARON WILL STAY BEHIND AFTER VP MONDALE'S DEPARTURE EVENING, JULY 3, I WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING DATE HE INTENDS MAKE TRIP FROM CAIRO TO SFM. AARON CORDIALLY INVITED ATTEND MY JULY 4 RECEPTION IN CAIRO.

6. RE TRANSPORTATION, WE WILL ARRANGE CAR TO DRIVE AARON TO ISMALIA, WHERE HE WILL CROSS SUEZ CANAL. ON SINAI SIDE, SFM VEHICLE WILL PICK HIM UP AND
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TRANSPORT HIM TO SFM. ONWARD TRAVEL FROM SFM TO TEL AVIV CAN BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN SFM AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV. EILTS

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